

## **Toronto: Ostomy Toronto Celebrates 50 Years of Service to the Community**

*Toronto, Ontario* – Ostomy Toronto is celebrating 50 years of service to local ostomates with a luncheon at the Toronto Royal York Hotel in the Imperial Room on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. Ostomy Toronto has come a long way since originally forming in 1958 as the Ileostomy Association of Toronto with a handful of members who paid annual dues of \$1. It is now considered an invaluable resource for thousands of people in the Greater Toronto Area who have faced ostomy surgery. Ostomy surgery is a diversion of bowel or bladder function due to inflammatory bowel disease, cancer, or physical trauma. Ten percent of Canadians living with an ostomy reside in the Greater Toronto Area.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ostomy Toronto's Service to the Community is being held to raise awareness of Ostomy Toronto as well as to celebrate the support that Ostomy Toronto has given local ostomates for the past 50 years. "It is important to note the successes of Ostomy Toronto, as well as raise the awareness to those people who are facing such surgery," says Lorne Aronson, the Vice President for Ostomy Toronto. "They have a place to turn for help."

The luncheon will feature keynote speaker Jessica Grossman who will address youth ostomates and the services and organizations that are available for them. Tickets for the luncheon are \$50 and can be purchased by calling 1-866-285-5948.

### **About Ostomy Toronto:**

Ostomy Toronto is an active, dynamic non-profit organization that exists to meet the needs of ostomates.

We assist in the rehabilitation of individuals who have or will have ostomy surgery through such services as our patient visitor program and the Ostomy Resource Centre. Our monthly chapter meetings may include question and answer sessions hosted by our ET advisor, guest speakers from the medical community, manufacturers' exhibits, and peer to peer support. We publish a newsletter from September through June which includes helpful information. Ostomy Toronto occasionally hosts satellite meetings in outlying areas such as Barrie and Newmarket.

Ostomy Toronto promotes a better public understanding of ostomy and related surgery as well as assists the medical profession.

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